

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068055 TOSEC 030031
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 068055 TOSEC 030031

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM TOKYO DATED MARCH 28, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T TOKYO 4278

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: STATE 67973

1. I DELIVERED NON-PAPER TO VICE-MINISTER SHOJI SATO OF FOREIGN
MINISTRY AM OF 3/28. HATOYAMA AND FUKUDA INVOLVED IN DIET BRIEF-
INGS FOR INDETERMINATE PERIOD OF TIME.

2. SATO'S ONLY QUESTION, AFTER BRIEFLY SKIMMING PAPER, WAS
WHETHER MESSAGE HAD BEEN DIRECTED ONLY TO JAPAN OR TO OTHER
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COUNTRIES AS WELL. I REPLIED THAT MESSAGE HAD BEEN SENT TO A
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH U.S. WAS INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR
POLICY DISCUSSIONS.

3. I STRESSED THAT MATTER SHOULD BE HELD IN STRICT CONFIDENCE.

4. AT SATO'S REQUEST, I THEN HELD SEPARATE MEETING WITH HIROSHI

OHTA, DIRECTOR, SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIVISION, UNITED NATIONS BUREAU, FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE HAD BEEN PRESENT IN MEETING WITH SATO, IN ABSENCE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OKAWA OF UN BUREAU. OHTA NOTED THAT RESIDENT PRESS AT FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD HAVE OBSERVED THAT OHTA WAS PRESENT AT MY MEETING WITH SATO AND WOULD CONCLUDE THAT I HAD DISCUSSED IMPORTANT NUCLEAR MATTER. WE THEREFORE AGREED THAT PRESS WOULD BE TOLD THAT I HAD DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT OF MARINE POLLUTION WITH SATO (WHICH WAS TRUE IN PERIPHERAL SENSE (STATE 66771), SINCE THIS SUBJECT ALSO FELL WITHIN UN BUREAU'S RESPONSIBILITIES. OHTA REFERRED TO NUCLEAR PAPER AND ASKED WHAT WAS MEANING OF REFERENCE TO U.S. EMPHASIS ON "DESIGNS OTHER THAN THE PLUTONIUM BREEDER." I ANSWERED THAT THIS KIND OF INFORMATION WOULD BE PRESENTED BY U.S. TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN MEETINGS TO BE HELD SUBSEQUENT TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POLICY. OHTA ALSO ASKED IF PERSONAL VISITATION TO WASHINGTON BY JAPANESE EXPERTS COULD BE USED TO RELAY GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON U.S. STATEMENT AND TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. I TOOK LIBERTY OF SAYING THAT IN VIEW OF SHORT DEADLINE FOR RESPONSE AND RELATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES BEING APPROACHED, SUCH A VISIT DID NOT APPEAR FEASIBLE AT THE MOMENT. OHTA OBSERVED THAT A NUCLEAR DELEGATION WAS BEING FORMED FOR DISPATCH TO WASHINGTON AS RESULT OF CARTER/FUKUDA TALKS, BUT THAT REQUEST TO USG THROUGH JAPANESE EMBASSY FOR APPROVAL FOR MISSION HAD NOT RECEIVED REPLY. HANG-UP WAS ATTRIBUTED BY OHTA TO "CONFUSION" IN DEPT. OVER WHO IN USG IS TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RECEIVING JAPANESE DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO HIM, DURING CARTER/FUKUDA TALKS, PRESIDENT DESIGNATED DR. SCHLESINGER AS BEING "IN CHARGE" ACCORDING TO OHTA, BUT DEPT. APPARENTLY COULD NOT CONFIRM THIS TO JAPANESE EMBASSY. CONSEQUENTLY, JAPANESE HAVE NOT SPECIFIED WHO
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WOULD HEAD THEIR DELEGATION, SINCE THIS WOULD DEPEND ON PROTOCOL RANK OF SENIOR USG OFFICIAL BEING CONTACTED, BUT THAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTER UNO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY FUKUDA AS COORDINATOR FOR DEVELOPING JAPANESE POSITION.

5. OHTA ALSO ASKED ABOUT SIGNIFICANCE OF APRIL 1 REPLY DEADLINE IN PAPER. HE INTERPRETED THIS DATE AS APPLYING TO HIS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO USG DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT, AND THAT MORE TIME WOULD BE ALLOCATED BY USG FOR DELIBERATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS. SPECIFICALLY, HE WANTED TO KNOW IF SUCH TALKS WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 20 (ASSUMED DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF OVERALL U.S. ENERGY POLICY) OR WHETHER THEY COULD CONTINUE AFTER THAT TIME. I ANSWERED THAT I HAD NO INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT AND WOULD QUERY WASHINGTON FOR A REPLY.

6. COMMENT: I AM CONCERNED THAT DELIVERY OF PAPER ON USG NUCLEAR POLICY WILL NOT REMAIN CLASSIFIED FOR VERY LONG HERE. NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO PUBLISH ELABORATE ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS ON FUTURE OF JAPANESE NUCLEAR PROGRAM AND RELATIONS WITH U.S. MANY PAPERS

ARE ALREADY REPORTING THAT NUCLEAR MISSION IS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR U.S. LITTLE CONSENSUS APPEARS ON POSITION JAPAN IS GOING TO TAKE OR SHOULD TAKE WITH USG. SOME PROJECT HARD-NOSED ATTITUDE IN WHICH ECONOMIES OF REPROCESSING WILL BE PROVEN, WHEREAS OTHERS ADVOCATE CONCILIATORY APPROACH DURING INTERIM PERIOD IN WHICH U.S. ASSISTANCE FOR CONTINUATION OF JAPANESE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM IS DEMONSTRATED. WITH THIS HIGHLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE PREVAILING, AT LEAST IN EYES OF PRESS, SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL MAY LEAK NEWS OF U.S. POSITION TO SWING PUBLIC OPINION ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. END COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WE COULD HAVE:

A. INFORMATION ON STATUS OF PENDING JAPANESE REQUEST TO SEND NUCLEAR DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON.

B. SOME INDICATION CURRENT THINKING AS TO POSSIBLE SCHEDULE OF
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FURTHER EVENTS TO OCCUR IN EVOLUTION OF U.S. NUCLEAR POSITION-- PARTICULARLY AS TO RELATION TO OVERALL ENERGY POSITION AND WHEN AND WITH WHOM JAPAN MAY ENTER INTO DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH USG. BUTON UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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